

Nation each year. Since 1985, there has been a dramatic increase in the incidence of ovarian cancer, with a 30 percent increase in the number of women diagnosed with the disease and an 18 percent increase in the number of fatalities. Ovarian cancer is particularly deadly, killing nearly 15,000 women each year. It is often not diagnosed until the cancer is in the late states of development, limiting the effectiveness of treatment and reducing the chances of survival. In its late stages, the chances of survival from ovarian cancer are just 25 percent; when it is detected early, before the cancer spreads, the survival rate exceeds 90 percent.

Our most effective weapon in the battle against ovarian cancer is early detection. Subtle but recognizable symptoms, such as bloating, vague abdominal pain and discomfort, gastrointestinal problems, back pain, and fatigue can also be symptoms of other less serious illnesses, but women who are experiencing such early warning signs should consult their doctors immediately for appropriate tests.

Doctors and researchers have identified factors that put women at higher risk of developing ovarian cancer, including a family history of breast and ovarian cancer, a high fat diet, never having had children, or infertility. It is vital that women learn about risk factors and visit their doctors regularly.

As we observe Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week, let us build on our efforts to eradicate this serious disease and urge all American women and their families to learn more about ovarian cancer, its symptoms, and available methods that may reduce the risk of developing it. By increasing awareness of early warning signs and risk factors, maintaining a healthy diet, and consulting regularly with health care professionals, women across America can lead healthier and longer lives and help our Nation win the fight against ovarian cancer.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 19 through September 25, 1999, as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week. I encourage the

American people to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 20, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 21.

Memorandum on Assistance for Federal Employees Affected by Hurricane Floyd

September 17, 1999

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Assistance for Federal Employees Affected by Hurricane Floyd

I am deeply concerned about the devastating losses suffered by many as a result of Hurricane Floyd. Many parts of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this disaster.

As part of this effort, I ask the heads of executive departments and agencies to excuse from duty without charge to leave or loss of pay those Federal civilian employees who are affected by Hurricane Floyd and its aftermath and who can be spared from their usual responsibilities. Specifically, I request that excused absence be granted to employees who are needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or clean-up efforts authorized by Federal, State, or other officials having jurisdiction and employees who are prevented from reporting for work or faced with a personal emergency because of Hurricane Floyd and its aftermath.

I am also authorizing the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to determine whether there is a need to establish an emergency leave transfer program to assist employees affected by this major disaster. An emergency leave transfer program would permit employees in an executive agency to

donate their unused annual leave for transfer to employees of the same or other agencies who were adversely affected by Hurricane Floyd and who need additional time off for recovery. If the need for donated annual leave becomes evident, I direct OPM to establish the emergency leave transfer program and provide additional information to agencies on the program's administration.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 10¹

The President announced his intention to nominate William B. Bader to be Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State.

September 11

After crossing the international dateline, the President arrived in Auckland, New Zealand, in the morning.

September 12

In the morning, the President met with the America's Cup crew at Hobson Wharf at the New Zealand National Maritime Museum. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Serena Williams congratulating her on winning the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia in the Merlion Room at the Stamford Plaza Hotel. The President also met briefly with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia.

Later in the afternoon, the President attended APEC summit meetings at the

Carlton Hotel. In the evening, he attended an APEC dinner in the townhall.

September 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Queenstown, New Zealand.

The White House announced that the President will address the 54th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City on September 21.

The President declared an emergency in Georgia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area impacted by Hurricane Floyd on September 14 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area impacted by Hurricane Floyd on September 14 and continuing.

September 15

In the morning, the President traveled to Christchurch, New Zealand, where he toured the International Antarctic Centre.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC. While en route and after crossing the international dateline, the President stopped at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, arriving in the morning of September 15. The President arrived in Washington, DC, after midnight.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ray Martinez as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sheryl Dicker and Patricia T. Russell as members of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sally Katzen as Chair of the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise.

The President announced his intention to appoint C. Michael Armstrong as a member of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President declared an emergency in South Carolina and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area impacted by Hurricane Floyd on September 14 and continuing.

¹ This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.